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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Thomas THORÖE SCHERB et al.

Group Art Unit: 1731

Appln. No. : 09/769,275

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : January 26, 2001

For : FORMER AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING A TISSUE WEB

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

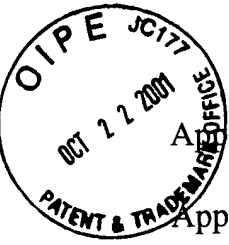
Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner for consideration during the examination of the instant application:

Applicants submit herewith a copy of the European Search Report (in German) conducted in European Application No. 00 12 7611, which is a counterpart of the instant application. In particular the European Examiner cited:

(1) WO 96/35018, which is cited as a "Y" category document (i.e., a document indicating lack of inventive step). In particular, the European Examiner indicated that the Abstract, claims 8, 13, and 15, page 7, lines 21-30, page 9, line 27 to page 10, line 5, and Figure 5 are relevant to claims 1-5, 8-14, 17 and 18 of the European Application;

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(2) US 6,203,663 is cited in the annex as a family member document of WO 96/35018;

(3) US 5,397,437, which is cited as a “Y” category document and as an “A” category document (i.e., indicates the general state of the art). In particular, the European Examiner indicated that col. 5, lines 29-56, Figure 1, and col. 8, lines 27-29 are relevant to claims 1-5, 8, 12-14, and 18 of the European Application (as a “Y” document), and to claims 6, 7, 15 and 16 of the European Application (as an “A” document);

(4) US 5,306,395 is cited in the annex as a family member document of US 5,397,437;

(5) DE 43 27 601, which is cited as a “Y” category document. In particular, the European Examiner indicated that the Abstract and the Figures are relevant to claims 9-11 and 17 of the European Application;

(6) US 5,517,714 is cited in the annex as a family member document of DE 43 27 601;

(7) US 5,654,076, which is cited as an “A” category document. In particular, the European Examiner indicated that the Abstract and col. 13, lines 11-44 and Figures 4-6 are relevant to claims 1, 9, 12 and 17 of the European Application;

(8) US 5,534,326 is cited in the annex as a family member document of US 5,654,076;

(9) US 6,136,146 is cited in the annex as a family member document of US 5,654,076;

(10) US 5,527,428 is cited in the annex as a family member document of US 5,654,076; and

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(11) DE 197 32 879, which is cited as a "A" category document. In particular, the European Examiner indicated that the Abstract, the claims and the Figures are relevant to claims 1, 9, 12 and 17 of the European Application.

Copies of the above-listed documents (including the European Search Report) are enclosed as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

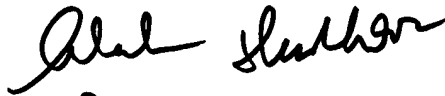
Applicants note that this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months from the filing date but before receiving a first action on the merits from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed document is requested under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3).

Applicants note that an Office Action on the Merits has not been received in the instant application. However, if an Office Action on the Merits has issued, and is crossing this statement in the mail, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee necessary for the consideration of this statement, including any payment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), to Applicant's Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

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Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas THORÖE SCHERB et al.



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October 22, 2001
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